>

Title: Need to provide round the clock ATC services at Vizag Airport.

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (BOBBILI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a runway of 10,000 feet; night-landing facilities; and instrument landing systems have been commissioned at Visakhapatnam Airport as part of up gradation of the airport. Work on many more facilities like new integrated terminal complex, aero bridges, baggage belts, airline counters and parking areas is in progress. A-320 aircraft have also started landing at Visakhapatnam. At present, the approved operational hours of the airport are only from 0800 hrs to 2000 hrs.

There has been a considerable increase in activities in Visakhapatnam during the last few years due to factors like expansion of Vizag Steel Plant, establishment of Greenfield refinery of HPCL, establishment of BARC, Naval Base, Gangavaram Port, Textile Parks, Pharma City, SEZs, major IT companies and professional colleges. It is expected that the number of passengers using Visakhapatnam Airport will touch one million by 2008. Many more regional, domestic and international airlines are showing keen interest to operate late evening flights to and from Visakhapatnam. In view of this, it is essential to have round the clock operations at Visakhapatnam airport.

It is requested to separate the proposal of additional manpower at Visakhapatnam Airport from the other requirements of the Indian Navy and the Finance Ministry should approve it at the earliest. To meet the growing demand of traffic and effective utilization of facilities at Visakhapatnam Airport, the proposal be cleared immediately so that the Vizag Airport becomes operational for 24 hours.